



# HAPPINESS PONY

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**The Worcester Phantom**  
BY BRUCE "SNOW GHOST" RUSSELL  
"Happily ever after" goes by the way  
of the knife. Blood drips from his  
hands as the pendulum begins to  
swing. Tied to the table, he recollects  
the murder, madness, and forbidden  
desires.  
The phone begins to ring as he  
lurks around the corner. Stalking the  
streets of Worcester, he waits in the  
shadows. He won't stop until he  
makes her his own.  
Dancing in distress, the phantom  
makes her his own.



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"Mothers News"  
IT IS A  
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**Movie Review: Point Blank**  
In "Point Blank," Lee Marvin is  
known only as Walker, a gangster  
who has been cheated out of his  
share of a heist and left for dead on  
Alcatraz.  
With the help of the mysterious  
Yost, he tracks down the friend who  
cheated him out of the money and  
stole his wife. His friend said he  
turned the money over to The Or-  
ganization. Walker works his way up  
The Organization's ladder, repeatedly  
demanding his \$93,000, being re-  
fused, and blowing person after per-  
son away.  
In the hands of anyone but John  
Boorman, this would be a Seagalian  
direct-to-video special. But one  
watches this movie unsure of wheth-  
er Walker's revenge is reality or a dy-  
ing man's fantasy, flashback or  
flashforward, life or a dream. And  
Lee Marvin is at his finest: with noth-  
ing to lose, and nothing to gain, he's  
stripped down to one goal, one emo-  
tion, and one name. (Nicole  
Apostola)



## The Atmospheric, Electro-magnetic Telegraph, conducted by Animal Instinct

*The leech, disturb'd, is newly risen  
Quite to the summit of his prison.*  
*Edward Jenner, "Signs of Rain"*

Of the many inventions at the first World's Fair in 1851, the Tempest Prognosticator was the most grotesquely beautiful. It was made from whalebone and shimmering glass, and modeled after an Indian temple. Twelve pint-sized bottles were placed in a circle reminiscent of a carousel, with a layer of rainwater in each. And in each bottle, a leech was trapped.

Rather than using more mechanical ways to measure atmospheric pressure, the Leech Barometer relied on the instinctual knowledge of these bloodsuckers. When the leeches sensed an impending storm, each attempted to climb out of its glass cage, causing a hammer to strike a bell. If it started to sound like a Sunday morning, then grab your umbrella.

The Prognosticator's creator, George Merryweather, was a doctor whose fascination in leeches began with their medical application. He was later inspired by an Edward Jenner poem (above) to harness the barometric powers of the small creatures.

The Barometer was configured to help minimize "the affliction of solitary confinement" that trapped leeches might otherwise feel. Questions remain about how the leeches (who Merryweather affectionately called his "Jury of Philosophical Councilors") were to be fed.

Merryweather envisioned that Prognosticators would be placed along the British coastline and connected to telegraphs to create a leech meteorological network, but this proposal was rejected. Presently, one working replica of the Prognosticator still exists at Barometer World in Devon, England. It is used on occasion. (Jen Burt)

## The Sustained Silent Reading Book Club

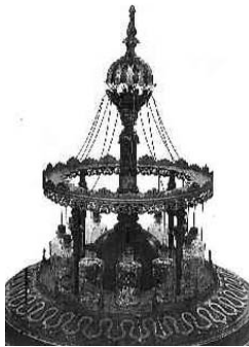
Do you like to read? Do you like the idea of being in a book club?  
Do you have trouble finding the time to read? Do you dislike show-  
ing up to your book club without having read the book?  
If these are true for you, then the Sustained Silent Reading Book  
Club is for you.

For the first meeting of your SSR Book Club, brew a pot of tea, make  
your chairs and couches cozy with pillows and afghans, and invite a few  
friends over to enjoy sipping the tea while reading in a manner both  
sustained and silent.

If people want to chitchat, maybe they can do that in the kitchen, or  
on the couches when everyone is done with their reading. (Mike Bene-  
detti)



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BOOKS, YIDDISH+ENGLISH

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Zackary Sholem Berger: 1/3 Yid-  
dish, 1/3 English, 2/3 Pretty Pic-  
tures. bit.ly/NITSBAmazon

Cat In The Hat and Curious  
George in Yiddish. yiddishcat.com

MUGS, TIKI

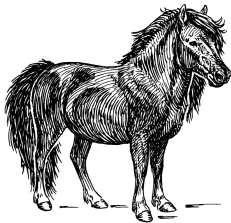
Scallywag Ceramics. Exotic curi-  
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HAPPINESS PONY  
Income Statement  
March 2013

Revenue	
Donations from editors	\$47.50
Ad sales	\$0.00
Other donations	\$0.00
Expenses	
500 copies	\$42.50
Test copies	\$5.00
Net Income	
	\$0.00

Income Statement  
April 2011–March 2013

Revenue	
Donations from editors	\$1,763.45
Ad sales	\$0.00
Other donations	\$48.00

Expenses	
11,680 copies	\$1716.78
Test copies	\$40.04
Car rental	\$9.03
20 laminated placemats	\$47.60

Net Income	
	\$0.00

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editor@happinesspony.com



## Water Bear

There is no beast in all the kingdoms quite as marvelous as the tardigrade. Also known as the “water bear” or “moss piglet,” it is a polyextremophile, an organism that can live in multiple conditions that would be lethal to most life on earth. Tardigrades can survive temperatures from the boiling point of water down to nearly absolute zero. They can survive 1,000 times the Gamma, solar, and ionic radiation that would kill another animal. They can survive the vacuum of space (yes, this has actually been tested), withstand pressure greater than even the deepest trenches of the ocean, and survive up to 10 years without food or water.

There are more than 500 species of tardigrade. The first was discovered in 1773. They live amidst moss and lichen and are up to a millimeter in length.

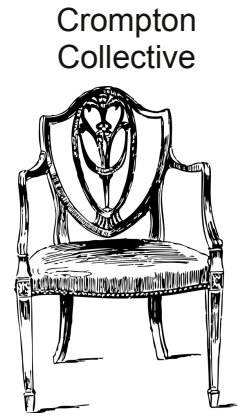
Tardigrades, meaning “slow walkers,” are sometimes called “water bears” due to their shambling gait when they move. While each species differs, all are plump and wrinkled in appearance, and have eight limbs tipped with four to eight claws called “disks.”

Tiny and unstoppable, the tardigrade is perhaps the most fascinating and impressive creature in existence. *(art and words by Aiden Duffy)*

## Farmgirl thrills crowds, threatens monarchs

Sharpshooter Annie Oakley was born Phoebe Ann Moses on a farm in rural Ohio in 1860. She grew up shooting, and made enough money as a hunter to support her family, even, by age 15, paying off the mortgage on the farm. That same year, she met travelling sharpshooter Frank Butler. She beat him in a shooting competition and they married the following year.

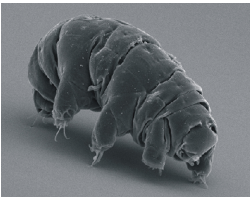
The duo toured America and Europe in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show. Her trademark was to shoot a playing card along its edge from a distance of 90 feet. She would pepper the card with several more holes as it fluttered to the ground. Annie performed for Queen Victoria and Kaiser Wilhelm II, knocking the ashes off of a cigarette held by the latter. Following the outbreak of World War I, Annie wrote a letter to the Kaiser, asking if she could try the shot again. 🐔



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Tardigrade photo by Schokraie E, Warnken U, Hotz-Wagenblatt A, Grohne MA, Hengherr S, et al. Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic license.



Annie’s lifelong goal was to teach women how to defend themselves. “I would like to see every woman know how to handle [firearms] as naturally as they know how to handle babies,” she said.

Annie died of pernicious anemia in 1926. Frank Butler stopped eating after his wife’s death and died 18 days later. If you would like to thrill to her trickshooting skills, you can view an 1894 film of Annie shooting glass balls with her rifle. Originally filmed for the Kinetoscope, it’s now also available on the YouTube. *(Kayti Burt)*

